

Message Text

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21

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 SS-15 SP-02 MMO-04 PER-03

ABF-01 NSC-05 OMB-01 /049 W
----- 047560

R 032302Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1844

UNCLAS CARACAS 1322

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, VE

SUBJ: COMMERCIAL TASK FORCE

REF: STATE 274108; CARACAS 11222; CARACAS 12234

1. SUMMARY.--POST UNDERSTANDS THAT THREE OFFICER POSITIONS AND TWO FOREIGN SERVICE LOCAL POSITIONS HAVE BEEN APPROVED FOR CARACAS COMMERCIAL TASK FORCE. FURTHER, IT IS POST'S UNDERSTANDING THAT UPON TERMINATION OF TASK FORCE, POST'S PERMANENT OFFICER STAFF WILL BE INCREASED BY ONE. THE FOLLOWING ARE POSTS'S SUGGESTIONS REGARDING QUALIFICATION AND GRADES FOR OFFICER AND FOREIGN SERVICE LOCALS AS WELL AS GENERAL OUTLINE OF TASK FORCE RESPONSIBILITIES.

2. EMBASSY REQUESTS THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO SELECTING RANKING MEMBER OF COMMERCIAL TASK FORCE WITH A VIEW TO HIS BECOMING COMMERCIAL ATTACHE IN SEPTEMBER 1977 WHEN INCUMBENT COMMERCIAL ATTACHE IS ELIGIBLE FOR TRANSFER. THIS WOULD MEAN SELECTION OF, AT THE MINIMUM, A VERY PROMOTABLE FSO-4 OR A RECENTLY PROMOTED FSO-3, PREFERABLY THE LATTER.

3. OTHER MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE SHOULD BE ONE FSO-5 AND ONE FSO-6. ALL THREE OFFICERS SHOULD BE AT LEAST 3-3 LEVEL IN SPANISH LANGUAGE.

4. THE FSO-5 POSITION WOULD PRESUMABLY BECOME A PERMANENT POSITION DESIGNATED MAJOR PROJECTS OFFICER WHEN THE TASK FORCE
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IS DISBANDED.

5. IN GENERAL TERMS, ASSIGNMENTS OF THE TASK FORCE OFFICERS
WOULD BE AS FOLLOWS:

A.-FSO-3-WOULD ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENERGY SYSTEMS
AND RAILROAD CAMPAIGNS. THESE INCLUDE THE GURI DAM EXPANSION
PROGAM (PROJECTED COST \$1 BILLION PLUS) AND THE RAILROAD
PROJECT (PROJECTED COST COULD EXCEED \$4 BILLION OVER NEXT
SEVERAL YEARS). THIS OFFICER WOULD ALSO SUPERVISE TASK FORCE
AS A SEPARATE ELEMENT IN THE COMMERCIAL SECTION REPORTING
DIRECTLY TO COMMERCIAL ATTACHE. THIS WOULD PERMIT A SEPARATE
QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE EVALUATION OF TASK FORCE'S OVERALL
EFFECTIVENESS.

B.-FSO-5-WOULD ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR PETROCHEMICAL AND
SHIPBUILDING CAMPAIGNS, BOTH OF WHICH, BUT ESPECIALLY
PETROCHEMICALS, ARE LONG ENDEAVORS. THUS, SHOULD FSO-5
TASK FORC OFFICER ELECT FOR A 2 YEAR-HOME LEAVE-2 YEAR TOUR,
HE COULD CONTINUE IN PERMANENT MAJOR PROJECTS OFFICER POSITION.

C.-FSO-6-WOULD ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
AND AGRICULTURE CAMPAIGNS. IT IS CURRENTLY ESTIMATED THAT THE
ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE CORPOSULIA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME
ALONE WILL INCLUDE INVESTMENTS OF PERHAPS \$7 BILLION OVER THE
NEXT FIVE TO SEVEN YEARS. WHILE MOST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
SCHEMES ARE STILL IN LATE PLANNING STAGES WITH FEW CONCRETE
PROJECTS ANNOUNCED, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT COVERAGE OF THIS
FIELD BEGIN SOON IF US. SUPPLIERS ARE TO BE ADEQUATELY INFORMED
AS PROJECTS ARISE.

6. AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE TASK FORCE WILL BE THE TWO FSL'S.
ONE OF THESE SHOULD BE AN E/C SPECIALIST II (FSL-3) AND THE
OTHER SHOULD BE AN EXECUTIVE SECRETARY (FSL-6). TO OBTAIN
THE CALIBRE OF EMPLOYEE NEEDED TO REPRESENT THE EMBASSY AND
OPERATE WITH THE TASK FORCE ON INDEPENDENT ASSIGNMENTS, AN
FSL-3 GRADE LEVEL IS MINIMUM.

7. WHILE TASK FORCE WILL BE A PART OF THE COMMERCIAL SECTION
EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO KEEP ITS PERFORMANCE SUFFICIENTLY
SEPARATED FOR APPRAISAL OF RESULTS.

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8. CONTACT LISTS FOR SPECIFIC CAMPAIGNS AS WELL AS GENERAL
GUIDELINES FOR CAMPAIGNS HAVE BEEN PREPARED BY POST IN ORDER
TO MINIMIZE DELAYS IN GETTING TASK FORCE EFFORTS UNDERWAY ONCE
PERSONNEL ARE ASSIGNED.

9. ONE BENEFIT POST HOPES TO ACHIEVE IS LESSENING OF LOAD ON
PRESENT STAFF IN ORDER TO PERMIT EFFECTIVE OPERATION OF MARKET

ANALYSIS UNIT ESTABLISHED LAST YEAR.

10. IN ORDER TO BE SUCCESSFUL, TASK FORCE AS WELL AS REGUALR
COMMERCIAL OFFICERS MUST ENGAGE IN INCREASED TRAVEL. A SEPARATE
MESSAGE OUTLINING SUPPORT REQUIRED IS BEING SUBMITTED.

11. POST ANTICIPATES RECEIVING EARLY NOTICE OF ASSIGNMENTS
OR ASSIGNMENT CANDIDATES AS WELL AS HIRING AUTHORITY FOR
LOCAL POSITION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CARACA01322
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760043-0243
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760289/aaaadabh.tel
Line Count: 125
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 274108, 76 CARACAS 11222, 76 CARACAS 12234
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 MAY 2004 by BrownAM>; APPROVED <08 DEC 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMMERCIAL TASK FORCE
TAGS: BEXP, VE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006